

LONDON (WATFORD) SPRING WATER COMPANY,

TO BE INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT.

[Provisionally Registered under the Act 7 & 8 Victoria, cap. 110.]

CAPITAL £350,000, IN 14,000 SHARES OF £25 EACH.

Of which 17,74. 6d. will be payable on signing the Subscription Contract, and no further call will be made until the Act has been obtained, the plans, sections, and books of reference in respect of which have been duly deposited in compliance with the Standing Orders of Parliament.

A large proportion of the shares is reserved for allotment to the householders and landed proprietors of the district of the metropolis and the suburban places intended to be supplied by the Company, and all householders agreeing to take the Company's water will have the preference on the allotment of shares.

NO RESPONSIBILITY TO THE SHAREHOLDERS BEYOND THE AMOUNT OF THEIR SHARES.

DIRECTORS.

GEORGE HINTON BOVILL, Esq., 19, Abchurch-lane.
WALPOLE EYRE, Esq., 22, Bryanston-square.
HENRY THOMAS HORN, Esq., M.P., 116, Piccadilly, and Deepdene, Dorking, Surrey.
MATTHEW H. MANOR, Esq., 7, Alfred-place, Bedford-square.
JAMES FORBES, Esq., 24, Pall-mall-gardens, Kensington.
SIR ROBERT PATER, Esq., M.P., 11, Stratton-street, Piccadilly.
WILLIAM B. BOWEN, Esq., Hill House, Acton, and 31, Austin-frank.
JAMES WARREN, Esq., Chapel House, Epsford, and 68, Houndsditch.
(With power to add to their number.)

ENGINEER.

SAMUEL COLLETT HOMERSEAN, Esq., 19, Buckingham-street, Adelphi.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. MALBY and ROBINSON, 7, Bank-buildings, Lothbury.

PARLIAMENTARY AGENTS.

Messrs. LAW, HOLKER, ASTON, and TRIMBLE, 18, Fladry-street, Westminster.

BANKERS.

Sir SAMUEL SCOTT, Bart., and Co., 1, Cavendish-square.

SECRETARY (pro. tem.)—Mr. BENJAMIN BARKIN.

TEMPORARY OFFICES.—39, Moorgate-street.

Where, as also of the Bankers, Solicitors, and of Messrs. JOHNSON, LONGDEN, and CO., Stockbrokers, Tokenhouse-yard, Prospectuses and Forms of Application for Shares may be obtained.

PROSPECTUS.

The object of this Company is to obtain from the chalk formation at Bushey Meadows, near Watford, a plentiful supply of pure spring water, agreeable and uniform in its temperature at all seasons, and to distribute this water soft, colourless, bright, and incapable of producing a fur on boiling, at a cheap rate, through pipes, constantly charged, even so high as the upper stories, to the houses in the western and north-western and most elevated districts of the metropolis, and in the various suburban places intervening between these districts and the source of supply,—including, among others, Barnet, Bushey, Edgware, Harewe, Finchley, Hadley, Hampstead, Harrow on the Hill, Harrow Weald, Hendon, Kingsbury, Mill Hill, Pinner, Stanmore, Sudbury, Tottenham, Watford, Whetstone, Willesden.

In the western and north-western districts of the metropolis a cheap supply of pure, soft, spring water, always procurable in every floor of every house and manufactory, without the intervention of a cistern, fresh from the mains, upon the mere turning of a tap, will be a great boon for drinking and other domestic uses, as well as for the finer manufacturing processes; since, with the exception of a few springs and wells mostly of an unsatisfactory character, the inhabitants are now dependent upon the dear, intermittent, and often insufficiently elevated supplies derived from the River Thames, objectionable as the water thus supplied is from its occasional discoloration by floods, from its hardness for use with soap in bathing and washing, from its depositing a fur on boiling, and from its being contaminated by the sewage of the metropolis and of populous upland towns, and by the surface drainage of manured and ploughed land. These contaminations, more especially in summer and autumn, render the Thames water unpleasant and unwholesome, and foster in it disgusting water-germs.

The furnishing of pure water as proposed will cause the metropolis (which has increased upwards of 8,000 houses a-year during ten years, according to the last census, and has actually doubled its population during forty years) to enlarge rapidly in the direction of the high and the healthy grounds now forming its north-western boundary. The suburban places already named contain above 80,000 inhabitants, all of whom now depend for water upon the troublesome and expensive supplies obtained by means of deep wells, rain-baths, or water-carts, and whose property is consequently without adequate protection in case of fire. When pure and soft water is plentifully, conveniently, and cheaply furnished to these places, there can be no doubt that numerous new dwelling-houses will be soon built over their many eligible building grounds; for at present is the want of such a supply that prevents the erection of them. The necessity for the supply felt by the inhabitants of the metropolis, and of the other places alluded to, was evinced in 1840 by petitions to Parliament signed by 39,000 of their number in favour of the incorporation of the Company.

With respect to quantity, it is intended to obtain eight millions of gallons daily from shafts or wells sunk in the chalk formation at Bushey Meadows, near Watford. These shafts will intersect fissures strongly charged with spring water fed by the rain which percolates to a great depth through a vast area of adjoining chalk-hills rising at places to an altitude of 800 feet. Under these hills there are impervious strata inclining towards Watford, which cause the water to accumulate in the fissures described, till it can escape, as at present it does, by subterranean drainage, to the sea. In 1840, Mr. Robert Stephenson, the eminent engineer, after having made a series of experiments and observations on a shaft and borings that had been sunk in the chalk in this locality by Mr. Robert Paton, by order of a committee of the House of Lords, for the purpose of demonstrating how copiously spring water can be thus obtained for the supply of the metropolis, reported, as his conclusion, "I am perfectly convinced of the feasibility of the proposed plan as far as regards quantity;" a conclusion that all subsequent experience and investigation have confirmed. The water, which can be abundantly obtained at a natural elevation of more than 130 feet above Trinity high-water mark, will be raised, after being softened, into reservoirs situated on Stanmore-common, of a sufficient elevation to rise by gravity to all the highest grounds and buildings, and will be conducted into London through capacious pipes along the Edgware-road.

With respect again to quality, the promoters, while regretting the obstructions that this and other undertakings for the supply of water to the metropolis have been subjected to during the last two sessions of Parliament, have the satisfaction of finding that the investigations deemed by the Government to be necessary have ended in the decided and the unequivocal confirmation of their former statements by a tribunal undoubtedly competent and impartial. Professors Graham, Miller, and Hofmann, the eminent chemists appointed by Government as a commission to consider the chemical quality of the supply of water to the metropolis, when alluding to water from the chalk intended to be supplied from Bushey Meadows, thus expressed themselves in a report addressed to the Home-Secretary of State, on the 17th of June last:—"The inhabitants of London appear to have within their reach, in these chalk strata, a supply of water, which is asserted, on good authority, to be inexhaustible, and which may be considered as everywhere of an uniform composition and quality. It contains absolutely nothing of organic origin capable of further alteration or decomposition, and is therefore wholly unobjectionable on the ground of organic constituents. Its clearness and brilliancy also appear perfect, from the complete absence of suspended matter, and are highly attractive. Possessing at all seasons the mean temperature of the year, the same water has an agreeable coolness and freshness, which might certainly be preserved in a great degree by proper means of conveyance and distribution. The only other

quality desired in a town supply was softness. . . . The softening operation, by the use of lime" (proposed by Professor Clark, of Aberdeen, which frees the water from 2 grains of chalk per pint, or 1 ton per million gallons, without leaving anything else in the water in the place of the chalk), "is applicable in all seasons to the spring water, which indeed adapts itself with singular facility to that process. . . . The chalk spring waters can thus be commanded with certainty under 3 degrees of hardness, which is probably the extreme limit attainable anywhere in England for a great supply. The water of the present companies is reported by the same authority to be about 16 degrees of hardness." "The chalk spring water, after being softened," remarks the learned Commissioners, "is an extremely pure water. It appears to be considerably superior even to the soft water from the streams of the Surrey sands. The chalk water alone is uniform in its excellence at all times, the sources of it lying beyond the influence of weather or season. In the judgment of the Commissioners, this softened chalk water is entitled, from its chemical quality, to a preference over all others for the future supply of the metropolis."

Water attested on such eminent engineering and chemical authorities to be ample in quantity, and the choicest in quality, can be furnished to the metropolis at the moderate average rate of 30s. per house per year, being only from a half to a third of the charges of the Grand Junction and West Middlesex Water Companies, and yet return a dividend of 84 per cent. upon the capital to be expended in carrying out the undertaking. This was shown in a formerly published and carefully considered estimate of the Engineer of the Company, as follows:—

INCOME.

Buy 40,000 houses, supplied with 170 gallons per day, at an average rental of 20s. per house	£40,000
1,300,000 gallons distributed to large wholesale consumers at 3d. per 1,000 gallons	5,475
	£45,475

EXPENDITURE.

Annual taxes, and working expenses	£18,725
Buy capital expended (including 10,000, for Act of Parliament), 240,000, at 84 per cent.	20,750
	£45,475

On the one hand, the well-attested superiority of the water, precluding all idea of future competition on the score of quality, and on the other, the economy of the proposed works compared with any of the existing ones, induced by the present low prices of iron and other materials necessary for the construction of them, unite in recommending the undertaking to capitalists as affording a rare opportunity for making a profitable and safe investment.

Nor is it merely as an eligible pecuniary investment that the present undertaking claims encouragement. A cheap supply of soft, bright spring water, uncontaminated by the sewage of towns or by the surface drainage of manured land, distributed at an agreeable and uniform temperature through pipes constantly charged into the houses of an extensive district of this crowded metropolis,—all of which conditions it is proposed to secure to the public by the Act of Parliament authorizing the present undertaking,—will be conducive to the health and to the comfort of all classes. The highest rates the Company can ever charge in the Metropolis will be restricted, by an express clause in the proposed Act, to a scale (according to the rental) that was agreed upon between the promoters and a committee appointed for the purpose at a public meeting of the ratepayers of Marylebone, held in the Princess's Concert-rooms on the 29th of January, 1850. In such of the suburban places as attain to an elevation of more than 200 feet above the sea the rates will be necessarily somewhat higher than the fore-mentioned, to compensate for the great elevation to which the water must be pumped and the dispersed situation of the houses, but the maximum rates for these places will also be defined by the Act. A Joint Stock Company thus constituted, besides securing to the consumers a constant supply of cheap and good water, cannot fail to lessen the price and correct the quality of the water in surrounding districts. Indeed, the recent investigation before the Select Committee of the House of Commons has made manifest that the introduction of such a company is the only practicable means of effecting these long-desired but hitherto withheld improvements. It is a company similar in principle to the present that has lowered the price of gas in the City from 7s. per 1,000 cubic feet to 4s., besides improving its quality, and that has secured to the consumers, under express legislative enactment, that the present price of its shall not be again raised. Promising a beneficial influence thus wide, the undertaking claims the support of every intelligent well-wisher of the community.

39, Moorgate-street, December, 1851.

* Distilled water may be regarded as devoid of hardness; that is to say, no portion of any salt put into it for use is destroyed by any matter that the water itself contains. The presence of lime or magnesia is the cause of hardness in the Thames and most other waters. Each degree of hardness means much hardness as would be imparted to a gallon of distilled water by a grain of chalk (or the quantity of lime or of calcium contained in a grain of chalk) dissolved in it by shaker means.

Every water with any hardness will, in proportion to its degree of this quality, destroy some soap before any of the soap can set upon the thing intended to be washed. Thus a water of 3 degrees of hardness will destroy about 6 ounces of pale soap, and another of 16 degrees will destroy about 20 ounces (or 1 lb. 4 ounces) for every 100 gallons, before becoming as soft as distilled water; but after these respective quantities are destroyed, the waters are equally soft, and every additional ounce will produce the same cleansing in 100 gallons of either as it would produce in 100 gallons of distilled water.

(Consisting of Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S.; George Glaister, Esq.; Edward Joseph, Esq.; William Kemitt, Esq.; Peter Northall Laurie, Esq.; John Nicholas, Esq.; William H. Chandler Plowden, Esq., F.R.S.; M.P.; Jonathan Soden, Esq.; John Williams, Esq., M.P.; James Wills, Esq., M.P.)

LONDON (WATFORD) SPRING WATER COMPANY.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of the London (Watford) Spring Water Company.

GENTLEMEN,—I request that you will allot to me Shares of £25 each in the above undertaking, and I agree to accept such of this number of Shares as may be allotted to me, and to sign the necessary Deeds, and to pay when required, the Deposit of £1 7s. 6d. per Share thereon.

Dated this day of 1851.

Name and Surname in full
Trade or Profession
Residence
Reference
State whether Consumer or otherwise